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County Recycling Facility Reports Increases for 2006

County's recycling reaps additional benefits

Waukesha (WI) – March 5, 2007 – The county's Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) processed 23,826 tons of recyclables from 25 communities in 2006 – up approximately 106 tons from 2005. Increasing recycling not only saves tax dollars, but natural resources and energy as well.

The 16,135 tons of paper that were recycled saved 174,396 trees and enough energy to run 2,570 households for one year. This amount of paper also saved 39,498 cubic yards of landfill space. The material with the next highest "savings" was plastic: The 1,572 tons of #1 and #2 plastic bottles recycled at the MRF last year saved enough energy to serve 784 homes for a year. Total reduced greenhouse gas emissions from recycling all materials was equivalent to taking 11,376 cars off the road for one year and the total cubic yards of landfill space saved was 57,836 cubic yards.

County Executive Dan Vrakas said, "I would like to thank all the residents that diligently recycle their household waste. By properly disposing of their recyclables, our citizens are doing what's right for the environment while enabling the County to generate tax dollar savings through program efficiencies and the sale of recyclable materials."

The county launched its *RECYCLE MORE* Challenge last summer, encouraging residents to put all their recyclables in their blue bins and to increase recycling by 5% by the end of 2007. Residents can view which items are acceptable for recycling in their community by visiting www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling and clicking on "What do I recycle?" or calling the recycling office at 896-8300. To replace a damaged recycling bin or to get a second bin for more recyclables, residents should contact their town, city or village hall.

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